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**LOCAL COUNTERFEITERS CHARGED IN FEDERAL INDICTMENT**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury returned a three-count indictment charging ERNEST RUDOLPH, 34, of Sacramento, with manufacturing counterfeit bills, and two counts of passing counterfeit bills, and DONZELL RUDOLPH, aka Sheikh Muhammad, 52, of Sacramento, with passing counterfeit bills.

This case is the result of an investigation by the United States Secret Service.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Anne Pings, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment alleges that May 1, 2005, to September 9, 2005, ERNEST RUDOLPH manufactured approximately \$50,000 counterfeit \$100 bills in Sacramento. Both defendants are further charged with passing \$3,300 in counterfeit \$100 bills at the Thunder Valley Casino on August 5, 2005. In addition, ERNEST RUDOLPH is charged with passing another \$1,000 in counterfeit bills on August 24, 2005, in Sacramento. These bills were later recovered after being passed at the State Fair at Cal Expo.

If convicted, the maximum penalty under federal law for manufacturing and passing counterfeit bills is 20 years imprisonment for each offense.

The charges are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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